

## **Fostering Student Success: The Synergistic Effects of Family Climate and School Environment**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This paper delves into the notable, interconnected tasks of family climate and school environment in stimulating student success. It also traverses how these two important influences work synergistically – meaning their combined effect is more than the total of their individual parts – to determine student academic achievement, emotional well-being, and overall development. The paper analyzes the features of positive family climates and supportive school environments, pointing up factors such as communication, parental involvement, clear expectations, and a sense of belonging. It then examines the research on the synergistic effects of these factors, demonstrating how a healthy home environment can amplify the benefits of a positive school experience, and vice versa.

*Keywords:* family, climate, environment, student, success

### **INTRODUCTION**

In human civilization, a family is an organization of people who are linked by kinship (birth) or affiliation (marriage or another tie). Families exist to ensure the well-being of their members and society as a whole. Families should provide stability, structure, and safety as members age and get involved in the community. Elliot and Meril define "family" as the biological social unit consisting of a husband, wife, and children.

The term 'climate' is a more inclusive one. It incorporates the word 'environment'. The human aspects surrounding the child are referred to as the 'environment'. It includes the social, physical, and emotional activities of the family. All of these elements together make up the 'family climate'.

According to Beena Shah (2001), "family environment refers to any interpersonal relationship between parents and children. It

comprises the parent's attitude towards the child, as perceived by him."

### **POSITIVE FAMILY CLIMATE**

Family relationships take time to develop. However, when followed consistently, these five practical actions can assist you in creating a positive family environment.

#### **STEP-1: COMMUNICATE**

- **Talk About Everything:** Your children should know they can talk to you about everything. Nothing should be taboo. They should see you as a reliable source of information and counsel.
- **Don't just talk. Listen:** Children need to feel safe and comfortable. Listen and give them your undivided attention so that they feel heard and respected. Try to avoid interrupting them. It's preferable to listen first and then talk.
- **Don't Lay Down the Law:** If you have to say "No," explain why. Give a reason for your decision and prepare to discuss it. "Because I said so" is enticing, but it doesn't contribute to a positive home environment.
- **Talk About Your Feelings:** Hiding your feelings from your children will confuse them. They don't need the specifics of adult

situations. However, you can express your emotions when you are sad, angry, or overwhelmed. Talking about your feelings teaches your children that everyone has feelings and demonstrates how to deal with them. Also, don't tell your kids how they feel. Hushing them with phrases like "You're not hurt," or "You're fine," trains kids to repress and stuff their emotions.

#### **Step 2 (Show Love and Appreciation):**

Everyone deserves to love and be loved. Every day, express your love for everyone in the family, big or small. Say, "I love you," frequently. Use touch to express love. Hugs and kisses are a great way to show your devotion for your partner and children. Remember to give appreciation where it is due. Give your children positive praise on what they are doing well. Congratulate them on their successes, large and little. And show your children how to accept compliments by doing it gracefully yourself. Show your appreciation for your family. Appreciation raises self-esteem and encourages positive behavior. Treat your family as if they were your dearest friends. Remember birthdays and important occasions. Make time for pleasure together.

**Step 3 (Respect Each Other):** Everyone needs to be respected in a strong family atmosphere. Expect it from your children and show it in how you treat them. Every child is an individual. One youngster may be sporty. Another is a bookworm. This one love to dance. That person would prefer to go fishing over anything else. Every person should feel respected for what makes them special. No comparisons. Teaching your children your boundaries and demonstrating how to set their own provides a safe environment in which to learn about the world. Set sensible guidelines, such as cleaning up after yourself, being nice, and going to bed at 9:00 p.m.

**Step 4 (Cooperate and Work Together):** Families run more smoothly when everyone contributes. Working together fosters closeness and loyalty. Children have the right to play and be children, but they also have responsibility. School and chores, to begin with, then more responsibility as they mature. Even a toddler can help pick up his toys before bedtime. Keep your expectations modest and realistic. If possible, seek your child's approval. However, parental edicts are sometimes the most effective. Many of us wish our parents had pushed us to practice the piano more. Working and playing with your

children shows them that you believe in their skills. Modelling how to work and play hard encourages kids to try harder.

**Step 5 (Spend Time Together):** Parents and children should make time each day to spend with family. Dinner is a great opportunity to share and catch up on everyone's activities. According to studies, children who have dinner with their families behave better and perform better in school. Short periods of time together, no matter how extraordinary, are no substitute for continued, daily relationship. Family time allows the entire family to create togetherness and identity. It helps to avoid loneliness and alienation. Of course, developing good memories requires time and repetition. But pleasant times spent together are never squandered.

The educational environment has an important role in a child's life. School is the most crucial experience in a child's growth, second only to family. When a youngster starts school, he or she is exposed to new chances for socialization and cognitive growth. These chances vary per school and may have a direct impact on kids' behaviors. The school one attends is the institutional setting that defines a student's learning experience (Korir & Kipkemboi, 2014).

A school environment can be characterized as the thread that unites all of the activities at the school. The term "school environment" refers to the conditions that exist within the school and have a significant impact on a student's life and activities. The school environment has a significant impact on the student's personality, thoughts, values, and performance.

A conducive and open educational climate constantly allows students to communicate their thoughts and feelings, which has a good impact on their performance and attitude. When students perceive their school environment to be helpful and caring, they are more likely to develop positive attitudes towards themselves as well as pro-social attitudes and behaviors towards others.

A school environment can be defined as the common thread that connects all of the activities at the school. The phrase "school environment" refers to the conditions that exist within a school and have a substantial impact on a student's life and activities. The school environment has a large influence on a student's personality, thoughts, values, and performance. A positive and open educational environment encourages students to express their thoughts and

feelings, which improves their performance and attitude. When students believe their school environment is helpful and kind, they are more inclined to have favorable views towards themselves as well as pro-social attitudes and behaviors towards others.

### Positive School Environment

A supportive educational atmosphere has a major impact on student development (Wang et al. 1993). Key features include:

- **Sense of belonging:** Students who feel welcomed and respected by their peers and teachers are more inclined to participate in learning.
- **Safety:** A safe and secure learning environment allows pupils to concentrate on their studies without fear or worry (Cohen et al., 2009).
- **Academic challenge:** Schools that provide a tough curriculum that pushes students to study and grow promote academic success.
- **Supportive Teachers:** Positive interactions with teachers who encourage, guide, and differentiate instruction are essential for student growth (Pianta & Steinberg, 1992).

**SYNERGY BETWEEN FAMILY CLIMATE AND SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**

The concept of synergy implies that pleasant family atmosphere and school environment have a bigger combined effect than their individual elements. Research backs up this claim, outlining many ways in which synergy promotes student success:

**Communication Link:** Open communication between parents and teachers enables a better coordinated approach to promoting student learning. Regular updates and collaborative problem-solving can help pupils overcome problems (Hoover-Dempsey & Sandler, 1995).

**Parental Involvement Boost:** A positive school atmosphere that embraces and encourages parental involvement might inspire parents to become more involved in their child's education at home (Hoover-Dempsey et al. 2001).

**Resilience Building:** A supportive family environment provides adolescents with the emotional resilience they require to deal with academic obstacles at school (Eccles &

Harold, 1996). Open communication and positive reinforcement at home can help youngsters overcome setbacks and persevere on their learning journey.

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